

# save



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## **PUBLIC SHELTERS IN ROMANIA**

Save the Dogs' position:  
the good and the bad

## **STERILIZATION AND IDENTIFICATION**

The work of the mobile team

## **UP CLOSE WITH SAVE THE DOGS IN ROMANIA**

An interview with our  
veterinarian Alina

## **SUPPORT GIFTS**

Christmas gift ideas to show  
your support



**Year 2 – Issue no. 3 – November 2014**  
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# SUPPORT SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

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## about us

*Save the Dogs and other Animals* was founded in 2002 in Romania, a country where stray dogs represent a plight out of control and where animals are being exterminated by bloody methods.

Through its two centers based in Cernavoda and Medgidia, *Save the Dogs* develops activities aimed at preventing the stray dogs phenomenon. By means of its mobile clinic the association also reaches areas with no access to veterinary services. Furthermore the organization develops an international adoption program and runs educational projects in Romanian schools.

Given the tragic circumstances in which equines live in the region where *Save the Dogs* operates, the organization has set up a specific program for the home care of horses and donkeys, in collaboration with its partners – *Donkey Sanctuary* (United Kingdom), *Animal Care Austria* and *Friends of Homeless Dogs* (Finland). The interventions in the area include educational activities addressed to owners and aimed at preventing cruelty on animals.

*Footprints of Joy* is *Save the Dogs* headquarters in Romania, a model sustainable shelter for dogs, cats, and equines that is bound to become a centre for the promotion of voluntary work, developing pet therapy and educational programs addressed to children and their families.

The first donkey assisted therapy in Romania dedicated to disabled children is being run by the organization in several Romanian locations.

*Save the Dogs* is member of CIAO - Comitato Italiano Associazioni and ONG in Romania (Italian Committee for Organizations and NGOs in Romania).

**Would you like to read the latest issues of SAVE? Visit the section "Our Magazine" in *Save the Dogs*' website.**

## editorial

Despite the fact that 16,000 dogs were killed in Bucharest between January and September and the euthanizations taking place across the country, the work of *Save the Dogs* continues unabated.

Our efforts are not frustrated by the continual abandoning of animals on the streets of our cities despite the formal existence of a law to punish such action. Neither do we let ourselves get discouraged by the fact that many of these abandoned animals are the result of "animal lovers" who go to public shelters on the Black Sea and rescue dozens of dogs in poor health and then scatter them around the territory of Cernavoda and Medgidia. Some of you might be of the opinion that all things considered this is understandable and justified, but I believe that as long as the Romanian activists continue to do such things - abandoning dogs to their fate and allowing them to wander the streets hungry and sick, hindering our efforts - things will not change.

I picked up one of these animals myself. I was having lunch with the Director Filippo Agostino in a restaurant in Cernavoda and saw the skeletal form of a dog that could barely walk pass by. I immediately noticed the tag in its ear was a different colour from those we use, and realized that this was one of the many dogs abandoned recently by a so-called "animal rights group". Fortunately it was easy enough to pick up the dog, and she is presently in our clinic suffering from a bad case of gastroenteritis. As I picked her up, I could feel her bones and smell the terrible odour she gave off. How can we point the finger at those who abandon dogs if we, who should be leading by example, are guilty of doing the same thing? We will most likely have to put up with this type behaviour for a long time to come.

You can see how difficult it is for our facilities to take in litters of puppies and kittens every day, while still trying to help injured animals in need of medical care. The shelters run by *Save the Dogs* are under indescribable pressure. This is why the dog registry programme (p. 6) and the mobile clinic programme (p. 7) are so important. It is only by working to sterilize and identify owned dogs that we may begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel and hope to reduce - over long years - the number of animals entering our shelters. Maybe then we might also be able to take dogs scheduled for extermination from public shelters, which is something the chronic lack of space in our facilities prevents us from doing at present except for in rare cases.

Once the new veterinary clinic *Footprints of Joy* is built, we will be able to take a big step forward in the quality of the services we provide to animals in the area.

Unfortunately, we have discovered that the plot of land on which we wanted to build the clinic is in a protected area of archaeological importance, something that not even the Municipality of Cernavoda was aware of. As this issue goes to press, the archaeologists at the agency responsible for these kinds of situations are conducting surveys to see if the new location we have found holds any buried remains. We are of course hopeful that this ordeal will end soon and that we will be able to start construction of the new building.

I extend my dearest and most sincere wishes to all for a Happy Christmas and New Year with your loved ones. With your help, the New Year will be one of joy for our animals in Romania too, with important new goals achieved together.

by **Sara Turetta**,  
*President of Save the Dogs*



@sara\_turetta



www.facebook.com/SaraTurettaSave







# Horror and Hope

THE POSITION OF *SAVE THE DOGS* ON PUBLIC SHELTERS.

On 10 September 2013, with a unanimous decision, the Romanian Parliament decreed the death of hundreds of thousands of stray animals. Three months later, the infamous "stray-killing" measure passed into national legislation. But what is the situation like today, one year after these tragic events?

First of all, the truth has come out: investigations conducted by the public prosecutor's office have in fact revealed that some privately owned dogs and not stray dog were responsible for killing little Ionut. The anti-stray hysteria was sadly misdirected but there is still little hope of redemption for the animals in

Romania because the government has no intention of changing the substance of the law. It is difficult to find exact figures of the massacre, but we do know that in December 2013, in Bucharest alone, 16,000 dogs were destroyed, and another 20,000 are waiting their turn. These are the official numbers reported by the ASPA - the public agency responsible for stray animals in Bucharest - and by the Romanian press in late August.

The situation in the Capital is certainly not unique: dogs across the country continue to be captured and locked up in shelters away from prying eyes, where they are then killed using unknown methods.

## The Four Paws investigation

The fact that conditions in Romanian animal shelters are hellish is well known, but the seriousness of the situation was recently confirmed by an investigation carried out by the organization *Four Paws* (Vier Pfoten). The results are nothing short of alarming: none of the 43 facilities investigated was found to be in compliance with the law. Romanian strays that are picked up off the street end up in places that are dilapidated,



At the top: A stray dog searching for food in the Cernavoda dump.  
Above: Puppies in the public shelter in Mihăilești.





© A. Savulescu

overcrowded and absolutely unfit to house them, where dying before the final blow is administered is almost always the norm and the number of adoptions is insignificant.

### The shelter in Bacau

Certainly one of the cases most publicized due to its dramatic nature is that of the shelter in Bacau. Here, the Four

Paws investigation found as many as 28 irregularities, and reported the presence of about 2,000 dogs being kept in a former landfill, left to fend for themselves on a huge plot of land at the mercy of the elements, with insufficient food and no medical care. This was the state of things up until September, when some foreign activists and international associations, like *Save the Dogs*, started to

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get involved (in our case with letters of protest and information on social networking sites), while the ANSVSA shut down the shelter following an inspection and after receiving requests from us and other organizations. The city's mayor decided to open a dialogue to seek ethical solutions to the problem of stray dogs and at least 100 have been removed and moved to a shelter run by an animal rights association.

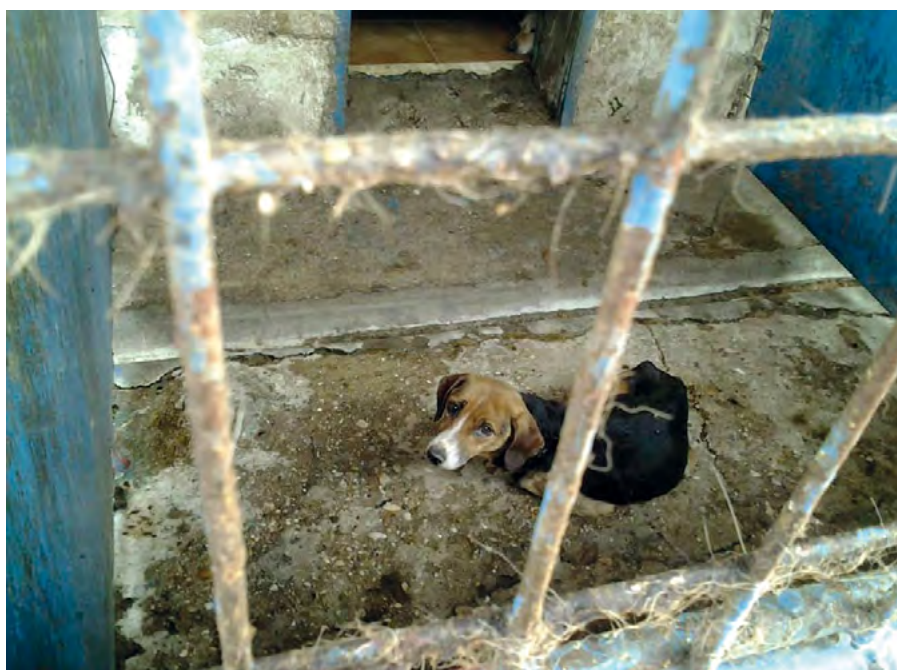
### Animal Police

Another positive sign of change comes from the Romanian Veterinary Health Authority, which has established the "Animal Police", an agency composed of eight inspectors in Bucharest and one for each province, which is responsible for monitoring the living conditions of dogs throughout Romania. One of the first tasks of the Animal Police should be that of inspecting the public shelters, which will have to demonstrate that they meet the necessary requirements to continue to carry out activities relating to the capture, detention and extermination of abandoned animals.

### Conclusions

At this stage, talking about a revision of the law is unfortunately premature, but we cannot deny that we have seen some small signs of change. International involvement is continuing to exert a lot of pressure on the Romanian authorities and little by little the ANSVSA is showing its willingness to at least ensure that the laws are followed, which to date has not been the case.

For those of us who love these unfortunate dogs with all of our hearts, it may not sound like much, but 10 years ago it would have been impossible to even think about establishing an agency like the Animal Police or closing down an illegal shelter like the one in Bacau. We at *Save the Dogs* cling to these positive signs of change in order to continue to hope and work enthusiastically for a better future.



Above: A dog inside the Pallady shelter in Bucharest.

[www.savethedogs.eu](http://www.savethedogs.eu)







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# Sterilization vouchers

"DOOR-TO-DOOR" WORK BY SAVE THE DOGS

Nine months before Law 258 rendered the National Dog Registry effective our association was rushing to launch the first pilot project for the identification of owned dogs in the city of Medgidia.

In July 2014, by agreement with the mayor, we began the same activity in Cernavoda and here, just as in Medgidia, *Save the Dogs* was at least successful in achieving the purchase of microchips by the city administration.

Our operators are still carrying on their patient door-to-door activities and the hard work of convincing dog owners, who sometimes refuse to listen or - in many cases - agree to the placement of the chip but not sterilization, which is scheduled together for the home visit.

## Sterilization vouchers

Despite the application of fines as a deterrent, in reality it is unclear who is responsible for actually applying the sanctions and this uncertainty means that our ability to convince stakeholders remains a key factor for success.

In order to increase the chances that the free spaying and neutering is accepted

by the owners, we took some inspiration from a method used by the *American Humane Society in its Pets for Life\** programme. Known for their extraordinary marketing capabilities, the Americans devised a voucher indicating the dollar value of the veterinary services provided by the association.

This transforms the legal requirement into a "gift", with the voucher serving to give people the tangible feeling of real savings.

## Encouraging results

Thus, *Save the Dogs* has also decided to give the idea a test and print thousands of vouchers in an effort to persuade as many residents as possible. The voucher idea is still in an experimental phase but later this year we will be able to tell if this tool has led to an increase in the number of sterilizations scheduled at our clinics. Nevertheless, most people willingly agree to sterilize their dogs and more and more people in both cities are coming to our facilities on their own initiative and requesting this type of intervention.

This is a sign that after years of our association's daily presence in the area, our hard work on this fundamental issue is starting to pay off and truly change things in Romania.

The identification project has also been initiated in the villages served by the mobile clinic (see article on page 7), but in this case all of the microchips were purchased by *Save the Dogs*, without any contribution by the municipal authorities.

This activity performed by the association will continue to be a strategic and essential method for keeping the problem of stray dogs under control in the areas where we work for a long time to come.

\* For details about the *Pets for Life* campaign of the *American Humane Society*, please visit <http://www.humanesociety.org/about/departments/pets-for-life/>.



More and more people in both cities are coming to our facilities on their own initiative and requesting this type of intervention.

<b>BON DE _____ RON</b> <b>PENTRU STERILIZAREA</b> <b>NR. _____ CĂINI</b> <b>NR. _____ PISICI</b> Nume _____ Prenume _____ Tel. _____ Ziua _____ Locul _____	<b>ACEST BON ÎN VALOAREA DE _____ RON ESTE VALABIL PENTRU</b> <b>STERILIZAREA GRATUITĂ A NR. _____ CĂINI ȘI NR. _____ PISICI</b> Nume și Prenume _____ Programare în ziua/oră _____ Locul stabilit _____ Din 2014 sterilizarea este obligatorie prin lege. Te așteptăm cu animalele tale! <b>Save the Dogs and other Animals - tel. _____</b>
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At the top: Catalin, a veterinary nurse with *Save the Dogs*, injects a microchip with the help of the owner of the dog.

At the bottom: The vouchers distributed by *Save the Dogs* to promote the sterilization of our four-legged friends.





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# Record numbers for the mobile clinic

816 STERILIZATIONS PERFORMED AND 25 VILLAGES VISITED IN 2014

After years of working "by fits and starts" due to limited funds, 2014 finally saw the *Save the Dogs* mobile clinic work at a steady pace from May to September, performing a record 816 sterilizations free of charge.

The increase in clinical results came about thanks to some targeted funding in the amount of EUR 12,448 received from the international association *World Animal Protection* (WAP), which, following approval of the new "stray-killing" law last year, decided to get involved in Romania by supporting some worthwhile projects. In addition to this contribution, the donations of our supporters across Europe also helped to finance a total of 176 sterilizations. Since the WAP funds were intended only for dogs, we used the donations of private donors to cover the cost of sterilizing cats, who also benefit from our veterinary activities.

The clinic visited a total of 25 villages located in the area around Cernavoda and Medgidia.

These small rural locations are in fact the source for most of the dogs abandoned in the city where our centres are located. So it is here where we must increasingly focus our prevention efforts.

## Dialogue with the local people

The mayors *Save the Dogs* contacted were for the most part enthusiastic about our offer of free sterilizations, although in some places we found a less welcoming attitude due to one of two things: a lack of understanding of the value of our work on the one hand, or - in the worst cases - the idea of the loss of work for private companies engaged in the capture and extermination of stray dogs, who had been awarded contracts in these locations.

However, this did not stop us from visiting these villages and opening a dialogue with the local people, even when we had no support from the authorities. In fact, even given the positive

aspect of the new law approved last year, which stipulates mandatory sterilization and micro-chipping for all owned dogs, in reality it is completely ignored due to a lack of veterinary services and disposable income among households, which are extremely poor in these areas. In places where we had the support of the City and the Local Police, who gave power and authority to our presence, we achieved excellent results and great satisfaction.

## Efforts made by *Save the Dogs*

All spayed and neutered dogs were registered in the National Dog Registry and the costs for the purchase of approximately 600 microchips and recording in the database were fully borne by our association. We also distributed informational and educational materials to explain to people living in these villages how a dog should be treated and what its basic needs are.

Our hope is that the mobile clinic project will be further expanded in the coming years, and include a dedicated staff, so that these numbers will continue to increase.

## IDENTIFICATION AND STERILIZATION IN NUMBERS

### DOOR-TO-DOOR (Cernavoda, 1 July - 4 Oct. 2014)

Dogs identified in Cernavoda	200
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### DOOR-TO-DOOR (Medgidia, 1 May 2013 - 30 Sept. 2014)

Dogs identified in Medgidia	1114
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### MOBILE CLINIC (Villages, 5 May 2014 - 1 Oct. 2014)

Villages visited	25	
Dogs identified by the mobile clinic	657	
Chips paid for by <i>Save the Dogs</i>	605	
Dogs sterilized	696	
Cats sterilized	120	
Sterilizations financed by WAP	640	€ 12,448
Sterilizations financed by private parties	176	* € 7,992

Above: The staff of the mobile clinic distributing material in a village in Romania.

## Help us!



## CALL TO ACTION

Give an owned dog the gift of a microchip!  
Donate at least 5 euros now, indicating "SAVE Microchip" as the reason for payment.

[www.savethedogs.eu](http://www.savethedogs.eu)

\*This amount covered the costs for 400 sterilizations. So, even though the mobile clinic campaign is over, we will still be able to sterilize a further 224 animals in our facilities.







# A Cat-sized Chalet

## A NEW HOME FOR CATS IN MEDGIDIA.

Although different from that of dogs and horses, even cats have a rough life in Romania. Stray cats are not always able to rely on their proverbial nine lives to survive and frequently suffer from disease and malnutrition.

While we have always cared for cats that needed our assistance over the years, the shelter in Medgidia was mainly dedicated to dogs.

In recent years, however, the increase of stray cats and cases of neglect has motivated us to create a space completely devoted to cats.

Thus the cat shelter in Medgidia became a priority that led us to seek help from supporters and partners abroad last May. The response was quick and in a short time we managed to collect euro

10,916, making it possible to cover all of the costs, both for the construction (euro 7,774) and the outfitting (euro 417).

The remaining euro 2,725 will be used to pay for some 54 tickets to bring cats over from Italy.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners for their help.

Particularly we are grateful to *Susy Utzinger Foundation* that provided the cat house with some materials i.e. scratching posts and beds in order to make our guests feel more comfortable.

Unfortunately, due to problems related to land registry, it was not possible to construct a building true to the original design. So we settled on a solution that has proven to be very comfortable and aesthetically pleasing.

The new home for cats in Medgidia looks like a mountain chalet with windows, sills and a large stove that will provide heat during the winter.

In order to ensure the greatest amount of comfort, the outfitting and improvement of indoor and outdoor spaces was performed by Alessandra Farina, an Advisor to *Save the Dogs* and ethologist specializing in domestic cat behaviour. Over the course of a week-long stay in Medgidia, Alessandra created shelves, pet beds, scratching posts, and everything necessary to keep our feline guests properly stimulated.

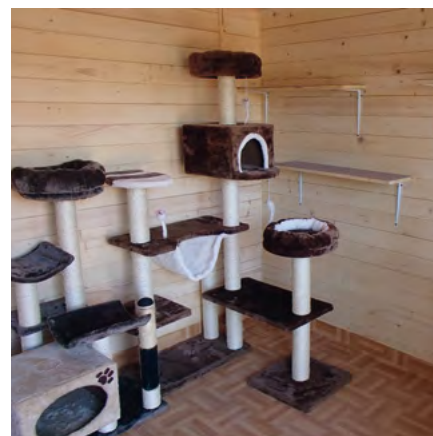
Now that the work is complete, we can say that our cattery is a most comfortable place for our cats to stay in before being adopted and living in a real home.



The shelter in Medgidia was mainly dedicated to dogs. In recent years, however, the increase of stray cats and cases of neglect has motivated us to create a space completely devoted to cats.



At the top: The new cattery in Medgidia (outside front).  
Above: The courtyard outside the shelter.



Above: One of the arrangements inside the shelter.





© A. Pavan

# Watchword: sterilize!

THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR FACILITY IN MEDGIDIA, ALINA BEGAN WORKING WITH US WAY BACK IN 2006.

The animals of Medgidia are in her debt. Alina left Bucharest eight years ago and moved to one of the more remote corners of Romania in order to follow our project (and her dreams). In this interview, she explains why.

"Passion is the main reason for making such a decision" - she says - I love dogs and I think the only way to give them a decent life and reduce the problem of stray dogs is sterilization. I knew right from the beginning that *Save the Dogs* would prove to be a valuable ally for my purposes, so I didn't waste any time thinking about it".

**The truth of the matter is that life in Medgidia is not easy. Where do you find the strength to keep going on each day?**

From the dogs that I see on the streets. They are the ones that keep me motivated. I know that this situation will change one day and I feel like I am a part of this change.

**Have you seen things improve in these eight years of hard work?**

Yes, of course. Both in the number of

strays and from a veterinary point of view. These days, diseases like mange or Sticker's sarcoma [editor's note: a transmissible venereal tumor] are very rare conditions, which is a sign that prevention and sterilization have been successful not only in controlling the dog population but also in improving the quality of life of the animals.

**Are there still some critical areas in the city?**

Yes, unfortunately, people continue to abandon dogs in the outskirts of the city. The problem in these areas is related to poor control of the territory and the lack of crackdowns, because abandoning an animal in Romania is punishable by a fine ...in theory.

**You've always been a strong supporter of the mobile clinic ...**

Yes. My motto is "sterilize and educate" and the mobile clinic makes it possible to perform both of these tasks at the same time. Rural areas often don't have access to veterinary services and people have no idea how to care for an animal. The mobile unit let us sterilize stray dogs,

take care of owned animals and teach people how to improve the lives of their dogs and cats. Abuse is quite often the result of ignorance rather than cruelty.

**How do people react when you arrive?**

It changes a lot from village to village. Some areas are more accepting, people are already aware of the importance of sterilization and are willing to allow us to perform the surgery on their pets. In other places it can be more difficult, we have to be very patient and explain our intentions as best we can.

**Finally, do you have anything you would like to say to our supporters?**

Yes, I'd be pleased to! I wish to thank them for what they make it possible for me to do every day for the animals in my country and I hope with all my heart that they continue to support us in the future. Our donors are a very important part of *Save the Dogs* and I fully consider them all to be a part of the team.

Above: Alina in the socialization area of the shelter in Medgidia.

The mobile unit let us sterilize stray dogs, take care of owned animals and teach people how to improve the lives of their dogs and cats. Abuse is quite often the result of ignorance rather than cruelty.

[www.savethedogs.eu](http://www.savethedogs.eu)







# Gift ideas for Christmas 2014

Which one is right for you this holiday season?

Minimum donation:

€ 15

## "KEEP CALM AND SAVE THE DOGS" T-SHIRT

Navy blue women's T-shirt with screened graphic in light grey. 100% cotton jersey. Sizes: S - XXL.

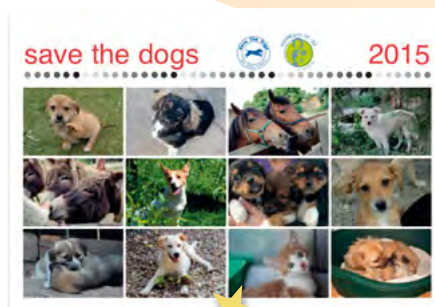


Minimum donation:

€ 10

## 2015 CALENDAR

Can a calendar save lives? Yes, if it is from *Save the Dogs*. Your donation will help fund the purchase of a digital X-ray machine.



Minimum donation:

€ 12

## "KEEP CALM AND SAVE THE DOGS" MUG

Orange with text in dark blue.



**Please, note!** In order to receive the gadgets, you need to place your order directly on the website [www.gadget-donazioni.eu/en](http://www.gadget-donazioni.eu/en) or send an e-mail to [gadget@savethedogs.eu](mailto:gadget@savethedogs.eu) specifying the name of the chosen item/items, any size/color/model and an address for the shipment, together with a telephone number. Without this information, the delivery cannot be guaranteed.

*Save the Dogs* reserves the right to ship the item/items within 1 month of receipt of the donation through any way it deems most appropriate (courier, registered mail, regular mail, etc.). The shipping cost shall be borne by the donor, and varies according to the type and the total weight of the shipment.

For more information or urgent requests, please write to [gadget@savethedogs.eu](mailto:gadget@savethedogs.eu).

Minimum donation:

€ 35

## FLEECE JACKET

New colour and pattern! Dark chocolate for women, grey for men. Sizes: S - XXL.



€ 20

## SAVE THE DOGS APRON

A cloth apron with two pockets and neck strap (L = 1 m). Lime green with screened logo in forest green. 65% polyester, 35% cotton. Size: width 70 cm, length 100 cm. One size fits all.



**Our partners' volunteers are welcomed to pick up the gadgets in *Save the Dogs'* Romanian office.**



Minimum donation:

€ 18

## FLASH DRIVE (USB)

Made of PVC, capacity 8 GB, personalized on the back with the *Save the Dogs* website



Many more proposals are available on our website [www.gadget-donazioni.eu](http://www.gadget-donazioni.eu)



# Give a Christmas gift to a guest of one of *Save the Dogs'* centres!

Would you like to put a gift under the tree for the animals in Romania? Here's what they need:

SAVE

011



€ **120** A YEAR OF FOOD  
for longer stays in our centres



€ **5** A MICROCHIP  
for identification



€ **10** A MONTH OF FOOD  
for their stay in our centres before being adopted abroad



€ **50** AN INSULATED DOG HOUSE  
for a warm winter in Romania



€ **70** AN AIRLINE TICKET  
to "fly" to their new family

To give a Christmas gift to an animal rescued by *Save the Dogs*, make your donation indicating the name of the gift you have selected preceded by the acronym *SAVE* (for example: *SAVE* airline ticket).

You can make your donation by bank transfer (IBAN: IT27A0521601622000000003000 BIC (SWIFT CODE): BPCVIT2S) or by credit card (PayPal) at our website: [www.savethedogs.eu](http://www.savethedogs.eu)

The dogs and cats saved each day and housed in our centres in Romania, thank you!







# Hundhjälpen: a mainstay for adoptions in Sweden

LINDA WEST'S ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN GIVING THE DOGS OF ROMANIA A NEW LIFE FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS

In the year 2004 Sara Turetta was in Romania alone, overburdened by dogs whose fate was hanging by a thread: adoptions in Italy were difficult and it was getting impossible for the future president of *Save the Dogs* to pick up more stray dogs off the streets. During these desperate days, Sara's father was also in Cernavoda trying to find solutions to a situation that had come to a standstill. Days of surfing the Internet led him to Linda West, president of the organization *Hundhjälpen* that had only a few days earlier ended a partnership with a Spanish association.

And so it was that, after a series of meetings, a partnership between the Swedish organization and *Save the Dogs* came into being and began to evolve into the

extremely harmonious relationship that we continue to enjoy today. Although the steering committee has changed its members several times over the last 10 years, Linda West has remained a firmly in place and has devoted much of her life to our project, exhibiting a steadfastness and patience for which we are very grateful.

## Hundhjälpen and *Save the Dogs*

The collaboration between the two organizations has focused on the adoption of Romanian dogs in Sweden, a country with an advanced canine culture including strict laws regarding animal identification and where stray dogs are non-existent. In a setting like this, if there were no associations like *Hundhjälpen*, the only way for those who want to share their lives with a four-legged friend would be to go to a breeder. This is another reason why international adoptions through trustworthy associations like *Save the Dogs* enjoy some support among part of the public, even though many representatives from institutions and the veterinary world are against importing animals from Eastern European countries for fear of disease. For the same reason, unfortunately, international adoptions often come under fire in the Swedish press.

## Adoptions in Sweden

How and who decides which dogs will be placed for adoption in Sweden? The procedures involved in international placement are very strict and begin with an assessment by our director of adoptions in Romania, who chooses the dogs best suited to this type of action. In general, when selecting animals for Sweden preference is given to medium-large sized dogs (for which it would be hard to find a home in Italy) and, in many cases, dogs with disabilities. The Swedish association selects foster families according to specific and thorough criteria and volunteers will continue to work with the families for many months after the placement to provide assistance with potential problems.

When it is impossible to immediately adopt (the dogs are usually welcomed at the Stockholm airport by their adopting families), our former strays are housed in special foster homes, where operators from *Hundhjälpen* take care of our four-legged friends awaiting their adoptive family. The adopting families and their dogs then get together once a year for a well-attended party, at which even a few staff members from *Save the Dogs* are present.



Above: Hundhjälpen member Madelaine Henriksson cuddles Bueno in the courtyard of our clinic in Cernavoda.

At the top left: Archie kisses Hundhjälpen Vice President Ulrica in front of our "old" shelter in Cernavoda. At the top right: Romanian dogs with their owners during the annual party dedicated to them.

All photos are by courtesy of Hundhjälpen





©A. Photograph courtesy of Celeste's family



©A. Pavan

To the left: Susanna and Celeste during a walk in a Swedish park

To the right: Celeste with Sara Turetta at Footprints of Joy shelter

# A ROMANIAN DOG IN STOCKHOLM

CELESTE IS ONE OF THE LUCKY LITTLE ONES ADOPTED IN SWEDEN THROUGH THE CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN HUNDHJÄLPEN AND SAVE THE DOGS.

Our most loyal supporters will remember a joyful picture of her in the arms of our president:

"That picture was taken by Aldo Pavan while we were shooting a story for the Italian network Rai Due - says Sara Turetta - and Celeste would not leave my side for a minute! She licked my face and covered me with kisses and I realized that she was a truly special dog. We took an instant liking to each other and I must confess that resisting the temptation to take her home with me was not easy!"

## Arrival at Cernavoda

But Celeste was destined to go elsewhere: to Sweden with Susanna, David and her friend Lilli:

"At first she was a bit suspicious" - they say - and it took a few days to fully gain her trust. But after these first moments, the timid four-legged creature turned into an explosion of life and happiness".

Celeste began her life in the worst possible way: she was found in a box in front of the *Save the Dogs* shelter in Cernavoda, where she had been abandoned at just a few weeks of age, and would not have survived a minute longer without the assistance of our veterinarians. She and her brothers and sisters were all frightened, confused, and extremely thin.

## With Susanna and David

Fortunately, the pups were tough enough to pull through and grew up to be strong,

Celeste began her life in the worst possible way: she was found in a box in front of the *Save the Dogs* shelter in Cernavoda, where she had been abandoned at just a few weeks of age.

healthy and ready for adoption.

Now they all live with their families in Sweden and their lives are spent racing through meadows and enjoying lots of cuddling.

"Early in the morning we take a long walk with the Celeste and Lilli, a neighbour's dog who is very fond of Celeste" - explain Susanna and David - and later, when we go to work she goes to day care with Lilli until 6:30 pm, when we all go home again together. In the evening we stay at home, and enjoy dinner in the company of our four-legged friends". Celeste is now so sweet and friendly that she is well-liked by everyone: "Our neighbours love her and we feel really lucky to have her," say Susanna and David. What can you say? It's a dog's life in Sweden!

## HUNDHJÄLPEN E SAVE THE DOGS: COLLABORATION FIGURES (2005-2013)

Dogs adopted in Sweden:	964
Grants and donations:	€ 411,500 *

\* Contributions include both free donations and refunds of expenses for dogs adopted in Italy

[www.savethedogs.eu](http://www.savethedogs.eu)







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## 2013: the year in review

2,599 FREE STERILIZATIONS, 588 ADOPTIONS, 812 ANIMALS RECEIVED, 189 HORSES CARED FOR AT HOME, 2,635 CHILDREN EDUCATED BY THE PROJECT. FUNDS USED FOR THE PROJECTS: 95%

As all of our supporters know, *Save the Dogs* is an association that seeks to be transparent and disclose its usage of financial resources to its supporters in a timely manner. To this end, we periodically publish our financial statements and make the reports from the president and director of our office in Romania available to our donors. These pages of the newsletter contain some general considerations on the year 2013, but we invite any readers who would like the full versions of both reports to request a copy (electronic or paper) from our office in Milan.

### A year in the black

As many of you may recall, 2013 was the year of the tragic death of a four-year-old boy in Bucharest and the approval of the new law. As is so often the case, an emergency calls attention to problems that the public then tends to slowly forget over time. Though fundraising in 2013 was somewhat sluggish in Italy until September on account of these sad occurrences, there was a recovery in the last quarter. This allowed us to end the year on a positive note, although the increase of EUR 72,000 compared to 2012 is mainly due to greater foreign donations. Currently the *Save the Dogs* budget accounts for 46% of its income from foreign donors and 54% from those in Italy, although this total does not include the additional tax donation 5% (though not technical-

ly considered a donation). Thus the role of our partners in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland and Switzerland became one of fundamental importance that greatly contributed to our budget. For the first time in our history, however, we need to include two negative data: a decline in membership and a decline in the receipt of the one half of one percent tax donations, which were probably due to other animal welfare emergencies that occurred in 2012, which had a major impact. We are convinced that this is not a sign of a loss of interest in the plight of stray dogs in Romania but rather of normal fluctuations in a context where the economic crisis is forcing animal lovers in Italy to make choices.

### The year 2013 in numbers

The decline in donations for Romania may be accounted for by the lower requirements of our operational site now that the new shelter has been completed. The

most important numbers, however, are those coming from the Romanian branch offices, using funds raised by the Italian office: 1,722 dogs and 827 cats were sterilized for free, 588 animals were adopted and 812 animals were accepted by our facilities because they needed care. We made home visits to 74 donkeys and 115 horses, built a new stable and bought a trailer that allows us to transport horses in need of assistance. We continued our education programme, expanding it to include a larger number of classes and worked intensively in the primary schools of Cernavoda and Medgidia. We have reached 2,635 children to date.

Only 5% of our expenditures in Romania were used for administrative costs, and 95% of the funds coming from Italy were used for projects.

Our financial statements may be viewed at: [www.savethedogs.eu/category/chi-siamo/bilanci/](http://www.savethedogs.eu/category/chi-siamo/bilanci/)

At the top: The entrance to the *Footprints of Joy* shelter of *Save the Dogs* in Cernavoda.

**Help us!**



### CALL TO ACTION

Would you like to do something that has lasting results such as setting up a trust fund, a bequest or naming *Save the Dogs* as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy? Call our office for more information!



## SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS ITALY

## INCOME STATEMENT ON 31 DECEMBER 2013

EXPENSES	31.12.2013	31.12.2012	REVENUES	31.12.2013	31.12.2012
EXPENSES FOR PROJECTS	€ 726.595,00	€ 937.092,00	DONATIONS	€ 965.982,00	€ 1.140.787,00
<b>Management costs for Romania</b>	€ 706.514,00	€ 652.662,00	<b>Donations</b>	€ 812.216,00	€ 678.223,00
Donations to Save the Dogs Romania	€ 647.205,00	€ 583.883,00	Donations	€ 812.216,00	€ 678.223,00
Cost of personnel in charge of adoptions in Italy	€ 31.344,00	€ 30.002,00			
Travel costs for personnel	€ 14.924,00	€ 15.759,00			
Purchase of miscellaneous goods	€ 6.773,00	€ 12.948,00			
Air transport animals - international adoptions	€ 1.712,00	€ 2.589,00			
Costs for land transport of animals	€ 4.556,00	€ 7.481,00			
<b>Miscellaneous expenses for the FOJ project</b>	€ 223.327,00		<b>Donations to the Footprints of Joy project</b>	€ -	€ 143.787,00
Expenses for the shelter construction	€ -	€ 218.611,00	Donations to the Footprints of Joy project (vet. clinic)*	€ -	€ 143.787,00
Miscellaneous expenses	€ -	€ -			
Communication campaign	€ -	€ 4.716,00			
<b>Costs incurred for the pet therapy project</b>	€ 6.980,00	€ 3.770,00	<b>Donations for pet therapy</b>	€ 6.980,00	€ 3.770,00
Donations to Save the Dogs Romania	€ 6.980,00	€ 3.770,00	Donations for pet therapy	€ 6.980,00	€ 3.770,00
<b>Costs for the education project</b>	€ 2.250,00	€ 4.726,00	<b>Donations to the education project</b>	€ -	€ 4.240,00
Donations to Save the Dogs Romania	€ 2.250,00	€ 4.726,00	Donations to the education project	€ -	€ 4.240,00
<b>Costs for the mobile clinic project</b>	€ 10.851,00	€ 42.678,00	<b>Donations to the mobile clinic project</b>	€ 10.851,00	€ 42.678,00
Donations to Save the Dogs Romania	€ 10.851,00	€ 42.678,00	Donations to the mobile clinic project	€ 10.851,00	€ 42.678,00
<b>Donations to Romanian associations with similar aims</b>	€ -	€ 9.929,00	<b>Contributions</b>	€ 135.935,00	€ 268.089,00
Donations to Romanian associations with similar aims	€ -	€ 9.929,00	Italian Tax Donation (5%)	€ 135.935,00	€ 268.089,00
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>	€ 259.080,00	€ 277.450,00	<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>	€ 36.418,00	€ 42.406,00
<b>Costs for events</b>	€ 85,00	€ 3.705,00	<b>Collections from events</b>	€ 9.869,00	€ 10.848,00
Costs for the opening of the new shelter in Italy	€ -	€ 1.846,00	Cerimony in Italy (for the new shelter)	€ -	€ 2.957,00
Costs for miscellaneous events	€ 85,00	€ 1.859,00	Miscellaneous events	€ 9.869,00	€ 7.891,00
<b>Membership drive and Italian Tax Donation (5%)</b>	€ 7.370,00	€ 781,00	<b>Membership fees</b>	€ 15.897,00	€ 20.191,00
Costs for membership drive	€ 5.958,00	€ 781,00	Membership fees	€ 15.897,00	€ 20.191,00
Italia tax donation (5%) awareness	€ 1.412,00	€ -			
<b>Costs for project promotion</b>	€ 56.034,00	€ 49.113,00	<b>Other revenue</b>	€ 523,00	€ 67,00
Costs for project promotion	€ 56.034,00	€ 49.113,00	Other revenue	€ 523,00	€ 67,00
<b>Initial inventory</b>	€ 11.300,00	€ -	<b>Closing inventory</b>	€ 10.129,00	€ 11.300,00
Gift warehouse	€ 11.300,00	€ -	Gift warehouse	€ 10.129,00	€ 11.300,00
<b>Overhead costs</b>	€ 184.291,00	€ 223.851,00			
Utilities	€ 7.791,00	€ 10.965,00			
Office lease	€ 15.239,00	€ 13.320,00			
Bank and postal fees	€ 8.291,00	€ 19.602,00			
Personnel	€ 130.433,00	€ 149.553,00			
Administrative expenses	€ 3.602,00	€ 10.385,00			
Amortization	€ 9.740,00	€ 10.238,00			
Miscellaneous management expenses	€ 3.911,00	€ 3.427,00			
Interest expenses	€ 136,00	€ 1.067,00			
Extraordinary management expenses	€ -	€ 1.472,00			
Miscellaneous purchases	€ 5.148,00	€ 3.822,00			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	€ 985.675,00	€ 1.214.542,00	<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	€ 1.002.400,00	€ 1.183.193,00
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR</b>	€ 16.725,00	-€ 31.349,00			

\* The amount collected for the clinic has been directly credited to the Clinic Project Fund

## FINANCIAL SITUATION SAVE THE DOGS ROMANIA

## Financial situation STD Romania at 31/12/2013

EXPENSES	31.12.2013	31.12.2012	INCOME	31.12.2013	31.12.2012
Central administration	€ 36.354	€ 36.608	2%	€ 2.206	€ 2.304
Staff and common expenses	€ 305.640	€ 248.944	Local donations	€ 13.169	€ 12.104
Cats and dogs shelter in Cernavoda	€ 125.655	€ 124.563	CNE Nuclear Plan Cernavoda	€ 2.371	€ -
Cats and dogs shelter in Medgidia	€ 86.085	€ 96.814	Cernavoda City Hall	€ 6.864	€ -
Dog/cat adoptions	€ 65.549	€ 74.214	Sponsorship by Romanian Companies	€ 227	€ 679
Cernavoda donkey shelter and outreach	€ 28.943	€ 33.245	Events for local fundraising	€ 231	€ -
Cernavoda horse shelter and outreach	€ 13.583	€ 12.681	Interest and repayments	€ 484	€ 735
Educational project	€ 449	€ 173	<b>Total income Romania</b>	€ 25.552	€ 15.822
Donkey Assisted Therapy	€ 434	€ 1.094			
<b>TOTAL current expenses</b>	€ 662.692	€ 628.336	Sale of goods	€ 3.086	€ -
STD donations to other associations/persons	€ 421	€ -	Donations from other foreign organizations	€ 15.257	€ 17.238
Investment in new facilities/cars	€ 61.083	€ 252.313	STD Italy and STD's partners	€ 660.110	€ 847.957
<b>Total expenses</b>	€ 724.196	€ 880.649	<b>Total income</b>	€ 704.005	€ 881.017
Opening assets 2013 - Liquidita' iniziale	€ 26.059				
Fiscal year result - Risultato di esercizio semplice	-€ 20.191				
Closing assets 2013 - Liquidita' finale	€ 5.868				



# OUR PARTNERS

Animal Care Austria  
(Austria)



Save the Dogs and Animal Care Austria have been partners since 2013. The organization supports our home care program dedicated to owned home care program dedicated to owned horses.

To support Animal Care Austria:

**IBAN:** AT82 3200 0000 1148 6123

**BIC:** RLNWATWW

**Contacts:**

[www.animalcare-austria.at](http://www.animalcare-austria.at) [office@animalcare-austria.at](mailto:office@animalcare-austria.at)

The Donkey  
Sanctuary  
(UK)



**THE DONKEY  
SANCTUARY**

Save the Dogs and The Donkey Sanctuary have been partners since 2008. Each year, the organization supports the **Footprints of Joy** shelter dedicated to abused donkeys, for which it financed the construction of three stables and the connection to the water network.

**To support The Donkey Sanctuary  
and contact the organization:**

[www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk](http://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk)

[enquiries@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk)

Friends of  
Homeless Dogs  
(Finland)



Save the Dogs and Friends of Homeless Dogs have been partners since 2007. The organization provides for the adoption of Romanian homeless dogs in Finland and supports the home care program dedicated to owned donkeys and horses. It organizes several fundraisers for Save the Dogs.

To support Friends of Homeless Dogs:

**IBAN:** FI96 4970 0010 0480 05 **BIC:** HELSFIHH

**Contacts:**

[info@koirienystavat.com](mailto:info@koirienystavat.com) [www.koirienystavat.com](http://www.koirienystavat.com)

Horses on  
Death Row  
(USA)



**HORSES  
ON  
DEATH  
ROW**

Save the Dogs and Horses on Death Row have been partners since 2012. The organization supports the shelter Footprints of Joy dedicated to abused horses.

**To support Horses on Death Row  
and contact the organization:**

[www.horsesondeathrow.org](http://www.horsesondeathrow.org)

Hundhjälpen  
(Sweden)



Save the Dogs and Hundhjälpen have been partners since 2005. The organization provides for the adoption of Romanian homeless dogs in Sweden and organizes several fundraisers for Save the Dogs.

To support Hundhjälpen:

Bank account 355425-0

or PayPal directly from their website

**Contacts:**

[www.hundhjalpen.se](http://www.hundhjalpen.se) [info@hundhjalpen.se](mailto:info@hundhjalpen.se)

Susy Utzinger  
(Switzerland)



Susy Utzinger and Save the Dogs became Partners in 2014. The organization funds some of our sterilization activities and other specific projects in addition to providing a large amount of material to our shelters in Romania.

To donate to the Susy Utzinger Foundation:

**Donation account number:** PC 84-666 666-9.

**IBAN** CH87 0900 0000 8466 6666 9 **BIC** POFICHBEXXX

**Contacts:**

[www.susyutzinger.ch](http://www.susyutzinger.ch)

[info@susyutzinger.ch](mailto:info@susyutzinger.ch)



[www.savethedogs.eu](http://www.savethedogs.eu)

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